مجلس اسلامی
Islamic Council

PRESS RELEASE
18 September, 1989.

Thanking the Islamic Council for its generous donation of two hundred million liras in aid of Bulgarian Muslim refugees, Turkey's Minister of State, Mr. Ercumend Konakman, said that Islamic Council's was the first donation Turkey had received from any Muslim source. He said that the Bulgarian Muslims had suffered persecution because they were Muslims and wanted to live as Muslims. The cause of Bulgarian Muslims was, therefore, an Islamic cause. He expressed the hope that other Muslims will follow the Islamic Council's example.

The donation was made by Mr. Salem Azzam, Secretary General of the London-based Islamic Council at a press conference which he held on Monday, the 18th of September,1989 at Istanbul Sheraton. In his address Mr. Azzam said that the purpose of the press conference was to reiterate solidarity with Bulgarian Muslims who had been victims of persecution at the hands of the state authorities and to declare support for the stand taken by the government and the people of Turkey on the issue of persecution of Bulgarian Muslims.

He said that for the last five years the Islamic Council had been campaigning against the persecution of Bulgarian Muslims and gave a brief account of actions taken in this respect over the last five years.

Mr. Azzam said that the cause of Bulgarian Muslims was an Islamic cause and as such it was incumbent upon Muslims everywhere to help their suffering Bulgarian Muslim brothers and sisters. He said that the fast approaching winter will further worsen the hardships of the Bulgarian Muslim refugees. He made a strong appeal to Muslim Governments, especially of affluent Muslim states, organizations and philanthropic individuals to donate generously for the cause of suffering Bulgarian Muslim refugees in Turkey.

16 Grosvenor Crescent London SW1 7EP Telephone 01-235 9832 Telex 894240 Islami G Cables ISLAMIAH